

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding grounds of rejection is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the remarks that follow.

The Examiner has rejected claims 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Satake et al. (U.S. 6,316,138).

Note that in Satake '138, every depression on an exposed side of the anode or cathode results in a projection on the opposite side thereof.

As amended, the sole independent claim remaining in the application, i.e., claim 22, has been amended to recite that at least one of the anode and cathode has opposite exposed and nonexposed sides, the nonexposed side being flat and the exposed side formed with a plurality of surface depressions extending only partially into a thickness into of the anode or cathode. This arrangement is fully supported in paragraph 24 on page 7 of the specification as well as in Figure 2 of the originally filed drawings.

It is therefore respectfully that none of claims 22-25 are anticipated by Satake '138.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 26-30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Satake '138 in view of Satake '737. Here again, however, the secondary reference to Satake '737 discloses surface depressions that form projections on the opposite side of the cathode or anode and thus, no combination of the two Satake references is sufficient to establish prima facie obviousness with respect to any of claims 26-30.

The Examiner has rejected claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Sataka '131 in view of Minh '788. Since Minh clearly fails to remedy the deficiencies in the primary reference, the combination of reference is insufficient to establish prima facie obviousness as to the subject matter of claim 31 which depends ultimately from claim 22.

DOSHI

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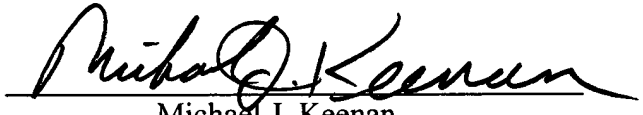
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The Examiner's attention is directed to the page 8 of the specification as filed where minor amendments have been made without introducing new matter.

The application is now believed to be in condition for immediate allowance and early passage to issue is requested. In the event any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned so that the prosecution of this application can be expeditiously concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

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